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ABOUT MARK LANE

Mark Lane is a New York lawyer who has practiced law for more than fifteen years, almost exclusively as defense counsel involved in the trial of criminal cases. In 1959, Mr. Lane with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Senator Herbert Lehmann among others, founded the Reform Democratic Movement within the New York Democratic Party. With the support of the late President Kennedy, Senator Humphrey and others, Lane was elected to the New York Legislature in 1960, where he sponsored bills calling for the abolition of capital punishment (subsequently enacted).

Following the assassination of President Kennedy, Lane formed the Citizens Committee of Inquiry and began an investigation into the facts surrounding the assassination and the murder of Oswald. He personally travelled to Dallas five times. To make known his findings in the case, Lane twice testified before the Warren Commission and has lectured widely on the case throughout the United States and Europe.

RUSH TO JUDGMENT
by Mark Lane
August 15, 1966
$5.95

1866 / 1966

383 MADISON AVENUE / NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 / TEL. 212 MU-8-9100

Mark Lane, author of RUSH TO JUDGMENT.
Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. Please credit
Fred W. McDarrah, New York.

About
a book
we are
sending
you
today

The attached letter from Arthur Cohen which went out to reviewers earlier may be of interest.

Maureen McManus

Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc
383 Madison Avenue • New York, New York 10017

HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON, INC.

June _____

Dear :

Some books are so horrible--horrible by virtue of the directness and savagery with which they assail commonly accepted opinion--that we feel obliged to ignore them.

At our peril, however, we ignore books whose horror consists in the devastation they do to popular historical conviction. Those books are as likely to make history as to record it. They take accepted opinion--usually opinion rendered sacrosanct by a well-publicized national consensus--and transform it. Where before there were certainties, what remains after reading are new questions, skepticisms, the beginnings of real inquiry.

When the issue of such books is the procedure and methods by which a Presidential Commission of Inquiry, presided over by the nation's highest judicial officer, inquires into the murder of its President, it is a matter, indeed, which, however horrible to consider, must be considered.

Mark Lane's long-awaited RUSH TO JUDGMENT, A Critique of the Warren Commission's Inquiry into the Murders of President John F. Kennedy, Officer J. D. Tippit and Lee Harvey Oswald (to be published on August 15th, not September 8th as previously announced) is such a horrifying book. Quietly, searchingly, with a patience and pertinacity almost monumental, Mark Lane has developed a critique of the Warren Commission Report which has shaken me and my associates. Where before I was content to believe that the published findings were conclusive, I have no such certainty now. Precisely the opposite. RUSH TO JUDGMENT persuades me that we know terrifyingly little about what actually transpired on November 22, 1963, in Dallas.

RUSH TO JUDGMENT shatters complacency. Surely, responsible book publishers, such as Holt, Rinehart and Winston, do not publish such a work casually, nor do they print 30,000 copies without circumspection. The nation should attend to Mark Lane's RUSH TO JUDGMENT. It may be horrible to read, but once you begin, RUSH TO JUDGMENT is impossible to put down.

(signed) Arthur A. Cohen
Vice President
and Editor in Chief

1866 / 1966

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1866 · 1966

EYEWITNESSES TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION APPEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DOCUMENTARY FILM MADE BY EMILE de ANTONIO, AND MARK LANE, AUTHOR OF "RUSH TO JUDGMENT"

The premiere of "Rush to Judgment," the only film dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy and the murder of Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit, based on the taped and filmed reports of eyewitness accounts, has been set for mid-September. Emile deAntonio and Mark Lane are the collaborators on the making of the film. Lane has recently completed a book, the first based on a thorough examination of the complete 26 volumes of the Warren Commission Report, titled, like the film, RUSH TO JUDGMENT. It will be published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston on August 15. Research of more than two and one-half years went into the writing of the book. The film was made on location in Dallas with a west coast production crew.

The "FIRST" noted in my $22 note [illegible]

deAntonio is the film maker who directed "Point of Order," the award-winning documentary on the Army-McCarthy Hearings, and who last year directed a political documentary about urban affairs in New York for the BBC.

Lane, a New York lawyer and former member of the State Legislature, twice testified before the Warren Commission. His book, which has an introduction by Hugh Trevor-Roper (author of The Last Days of Hitler), will be a Special Offering of the Book-of-the-Month-Club and has also been selected by the Mid-Century Book Club for September.

Lane believes that all sides have not truly been heard, and his book and the film inquire:

(more)

Did President Kennedy and Officer Tippit die in the manner stated in the Warren Commission Report, or does the evidence point in another direction?

How was it possible for Jack Ruby to have been able so easily to kill Lee Harvey Oswald?

Did the Warren Commission fulfill its task with thoroughness and impartiality?

About the film, Lane and de Antonio said today:

"There has never been a film quite like it. 'Rush to Judgment' contrasts that which is generally accepted--the Warren Commission Report with the facts--the words from the witnesses to the events. If the basic presumptions upon which the Warren Report rests are devastated by the film--and they most assuredly are--it is the eyewitnesses who are responsible. Some witnesses who did not see what the Commission evidently preferred to believe were just never called to testify despite the fact that they gave televised accounts of their observations from the scene on November 22. They are present in our film together with their original televised statements. Other witnesses who did testify complained on camera that the Warren Commission distorted the meaning of their words or deleted material elements of their testimony from the published transcripts. Others complain in the film, that FBI agents or Dallas police officers sought to have them change their testimony."

deAntonio and Lane have worked on the project for more than two years. They lived in Dallas for a month locating and interviewing witnesses there. They said:

"Despite some harassment by the Dallas police we encountered little difficulty and substantial cooperation from the witnesses. At first, we suspected that Dallas might be the villain of the piece but we soon

discovered a genuine desire there, although somewhat coated with apprehension, to let the facts be known. The most startling fact is that almost none of the witnesses believe the Warren Report since it presents as 'fact' that which they know to be untrue. They are now willing to say so. In a sense, then, the Dallas citizenry, at least some of them, are the heroes of the film. They cannot understand why the rest of the country is so naive and uncritical in accepting the Warren Report."

The producers revealed the film's cast:

"Among those who appear in the film are a former Dallas police officer who saw Ruby enter the guarded police basement moments before he killed Oswald. He explains exactly how it was done. Also in the film are railroad employees (including a former deputy sheriff) who saw the assassination from the railroad overpass just above and in front of the presidential limousine when the shots were fired, the Roman Catholic priest who administered the last rites to the President and who observed a bullet wound where the Commission said there was no wound, the closest spectator to the limousine when the shots were fired (he was never called as a witness by the Commission), a Dallas resident who tells of the close relationship between Tippit and Ruby and a former bar maid at Ruby's night club who details Ruby's relationship with Tippit and with many other Dallas police officers and city officials."

Lane and deAntonio further state:

"Crucial photographs, never before published, which themselves present a serious challenge to the government's version of the case are seen for the first time." Some of the witnesses they discovered had never been interviewed before, according to Lane and deAntonio. Says Lane, "I also utilized the transcripts in the preparation of my book."